

MISSISSIPPI LEGISLATURE

SENATE.

WEDNESDAY, February 11, 1846.

Metcalf presented the petition of the members of the medical convention.

The governor informed the senate that he had approved and signed the following bills:

An act to amend the revenue laws of the state.

An act amendatory of the laws for the relief of the poor.

An act for the benefit of the sheriffs of Coahoma, Washington and Issaquena counties.

An act to attach a portion of Yazoo to the county of Warren.

An act to amend an act to reorganise the judicial districts of the state of Mississippi, approved Feb. 3, 1844.

An act to preserve the records of the probate court of Lowndes county.

An act to incorporate the president and trustees of the Aberdeen Female Academy.

An act to change the name of Francis C. Jennison.

An act to authorise the removal of the slaves of the estate of Thomas Harde-man.

The bill authorising sale of lands belonging to the sinking fund, passed.

The senate went into committee of the whole, on the bill reducing the fees of certain officers therein mentioned, approved Feb. 10, 1844, and after some time spent thereon, rose and reported the bill back with an amendment; report received and agreed to.

The bill to repeal the law of liens upon judgments in justices courts, was taken up, amended, and ordered to be engrossed.

The bill prescribing the mode of collecting costs in certain cases, was passed—ayes 17, noes 13.

The senate refused to resolve itself into committee of the whole, on the resolutions to amend the constitution of the state.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WEDNESDAY, February 11, 1846.

The morning business was dispensed with, and the southern railroad bill taken up and made the special order of the day for Monday next.

The bill to repeal an act to prohibit the introduction of slaves, came up as the order of the day, when after some debate and several amendments being adopted, the bill was passed—ayes 60, noes 20.

The house went into committee of the whole, Wade in the chair, on the militia bill, and after some time spent thereon, the committee rose, reported progress, and asked leave to sit again to-morrow—report received and agreed to.

The following bills were passed:

A bill to authorise the commissioners of the sinking fund to compromise with the debtors of the fund.

A bill to authorise the governor of this state to appoint commissioners in other states.

A bill to purchase a book called "North on probate courts."

A bill for the relief of widows and orphans.

A bill to tax prosecutors in criminal cases with costs in certain instances.

The bill for the punishment of libelers and slanderers, and the bill to change the law of assault and battery, were indefinitely postponed.

The bill to secure to owners of slaves executed by sentence of law, compensation of the same, was referred to a select committee of five.

On motion the House adjourned.

SENATE.

THURSDAY, February 12, 1846.

Price introduced a bill to repeal the 5th section of an act for the more perfect organization of the superior court of chancery; referred to the judiciary committee.

Lipscomb introduced a bill to establish volunteer companies for the more efficient military organization of the state; referred to a select committee.

Bills passed:

A bill to change the time of holding circuit courts in the 5th judicial district.

A bill granting certain powers and privileges to the officers and trustees of the organized religious, charitable and benevolent societies in the state.

A bill to repeal the law of liens on judgments in justices courts.

Horne, from the committee to whom was referred the apportionment bill, made a report, and a discussion ensued thereon. The question was then taken on recommitting the bill and amendments to committee of the whole, and making it the order of the day for to-morrow, and decided in the affirmative.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

THURSDAY, February 12, 1846.

Petitions were presented by Mr.

Speaker, and Messrs. Green, Ewing, Berry and Neiterville.

Brooks obtained leave to introduce a bill to provide for the selection of grand juries, and for other purposes.

Singleton obtained leave to introduce a bill to bring into one the several acts of this state in relation to the public revenue, and for other purposes.

The house took up the resolution offered a few days since by Moore, giving precedence on the orders of the day to the apportionment bill, and the bills for the payment of the Planters' bank bonds, for erecting a levee on the Mississippi, for the sale of Chickasaw school lands, and, for the sale of the 500,000 acres of land belonging to the state. On motion, the resolution was laid on the table.

The house went into committee of the whole, Wade in the chair, on the bill to establish volunteer companies.—After some time spent thereon, committee rose, reported bill without amendments and recommended that it be referred to a joint select committee; report agreed to.

The bill to fix the apportionment of senators and representatives in this state coming up, the house went into committee of the whole, Cannon in the chair; after some time spent therein, the committee rose and asked leave to sit again to-morrow at 1 o'clock.

The house then adjourned.

SENATE.

FRIDAY, February 13, 1846.

Petitions were presented by Messrs. Lansdale and Guion.

Matthews, from a select committee, to whom had been referred a bill with an amendment, to apportion the senators and representatives of the legislature, made a minority report.

Bills passed:

A bill for the relief of widows and orphans.

A bill to repeal an act prohibiting the introduction of slaves into this state, as merchandise or for sale.

A bill to secure to owners of slaves executed by sentence of law, compensation for the same.

Durr introduced a bill limiting the tenure of certain officers therein mentioned; read first time.

Briscoe introduced a bill to repeal an act prescribing the mode of proceeding against incorporated banks, &c.; read first time.

Numerous bills were introduced and read first and second times; when

The bill to fix an apportionment of representatives and senators in this state was taken up, and then postponed until Monday next.

The resolution to amend the constitution of the state, so as to prohibit the chartering of banks, was ordered to be engrossed, and postponed until a future day.

The Senate then adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

FRIDAY, February 13, 1846.

Totten, from the judiciary committee, reported back, with an amendment, the bill to repeal the 8th section of an act to suppress tippling houses; rules suspended and bill passed.

Sessions reported back the bill to secure to owners of slaves executed by sentence of the law, compensation for the same, with an amendment. The amendment was rejected, and the bill passed—ayes 56, noes 36.

Alcorn, from a select committee, reported a bill for the benefit of settlers upon the state and school lands; read first time.

The house went into committee of the whole, Cannon in the chair, on the apportionment bill, after some time spent therein the committee rose and asked leave to sit again.

The bill to amend an act allowing fees to sheriffs and other officers in certain cases, approved December, 1833, was read a second time and referred to the judiciary committee.

The bill to regulate the practice in justices courts was rejected.

The bill to authorise the governor of the state to exchange the laws and legislative documents of this state with those of other states, was passed.

On motion the House adjourned.

SENATE.

Saturday, February 14, 1846.

Petitions, memorials, &c., were presented and referred.

Fox introduced a Bill to authorize the renewal of suits or judgments by *scire facias*, and in equity by a bill of revivor, &c.—referred to the Judiciary.

Stewart called from the table a Bill to establish Common Schools in this state, and the Senate forthwith went into Committee of the whole on the same—Miles in the chair. After some time spent therein, the committee rose and reported the Bill back, with sundry amendments; which was received.

On motion of Stewart, the Bill was

ordered to be engrossed for its third reading on Monday.

A Bill to authorize the Executive of this State to exchange public documents with other States; also to authorize him to appoint Commissioners in the various States of the Union to take acknowledgements of deeds, &c., were read a third time and passed.

On motion the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

SATURDAY, February 14, 1846.

Gilliland, from a select committee, reported a bill to authorize Benj. S. Tipton to keep a ferry on Big Black river.

Metcalf, on leave introduced a bill to provide for the payment of returning officers and judges and clerks of elections.

Alcorn, on leave, introduced a bill extending to settlers upon state lands a pre-emption right to one quarter section. Referred to a select committee of 5.

Moody, on leave, introduced a bill to amend the laws of the state in relation to runaway slaves; referred.

On motion of Connell, the house called up the joint resolution fixing the time for the adjournment of the legislature on Monday, the 16th February. On motion, the 16th was struck out, when Emanuel informed the house that a destructive fire was raging at Vicksburg.

On motion the House adjourned.

HORRIBLE MURDERS AT SEA.—

The English papers received by the *Hibernia*, contain the details of a series of the most horrible murders committed by the Captain of a ship on three of his crew. On the 11th of November, the English ship *Troy*, Capt. John Stone, arrived at London from China, and on the application of the captain some officers proceeded to arrest the crew on a charge of mutiny and murder. Circumstances, were soon developed, however, which proved that this was a false charge, intended to prevent the men from disclosing the atrocious conduct of the Captain himself. It appeared on investigation that the latter had murdered Wm. Rambert, Chief Mate, Wm. Mars, Second Mate, and Thomas Reason, seaman, besides maiming and mutilating several others of the crew.

The *Troy* left Hong Kong on the 14th of May. These atrocities seem to have commenced in September, when off the Island of Fayal. Dunn the cook, testified to the murder of Reason. The witness was in the cabin when Reason was called down—saw the captain with a bayonet in his hand standing over Reason—heard a noise as if the captain was sticking a bayonet into Reason's head, who was calling out for mercy—was sent up for some water and when he returned Reason was laying on the captain's sofa—saw two wounds in his breast from which the blood was oozing—he was dead—the body was sewed up in canvass and committed to the sea.

Several witnesses testified to the murder of Mars. He was sent for to the Captain's cabin. It appears he was in handcuffs. The captain took a cutlass and deliberately cut at his face, limbs and body. Some of the boys tied his hands up to a beam while the captain cut at him, when he became so weak that he could not stand up. He was taken up on deck and after an hour brought down and cut at again. After this he was laid upon the deck, and this monster amused himself by throwing a sword at the dying man, while he himself was eating his dinner. He then ordered the men to get a rope and haul Mars about the deck and to squeeze him, threatening to have their lives if they did not. A large piece was cut off his head, his fingers were cut off, and he was literally cut to pieces. After he was dead his body was thrown into the sea.

Rambert, the Chief Mate, was murdered in the same atrocious manner.—He was cut and hacked with a cutlass until rendered desperate; he jumped overboard, when the ship continued on her course and left him to perish.

After the death of these men the crew were treated with great cruelty. Several of them were cut severely with a cutlass. One of them had his face horribly burned by the captain's repeatedly firing a pistol, loaded with powder only, placing the muzzle within an inch or two of his head.

This sea monster was committed to stand trial for murder, &c. The examinations created great excitement among those who heard the details, and the van which conducted him to prison was followed with shouts of execration, by the crowd. [Louisville Democrat.

On the 3d instant, both Houses of the Virginia Legislature suspended their rules for the purpose of passing (and unanimously, too, in both houses) an act of retrocession, "accepting by the state of Virginia, the county of Alexandria, in the District of Columbia, when the same shall be receded by the Congress of the United States."

Marvellous.

A French *savant*, at Dijon, went one night, quite exhausted to bed, after long and vain efforts to make out the sense of a passage in a Greek poet. On falling asleep, he seemed to himself to be transported in spirit to Stockholm, where he was conducted into the palace of Queen Christiana, ushered into the royal library, and placed before a compartment in which he distinguished a small volume that bore a title new to him. He opened the volume, and found in it the solution of the grammatical difficulty which had so perplexed him. The joy which he felt at this discovery awaking him, he struck a light and made a memorandum of what he had seen in his dream.—The dark passage he now found perfectly cleared up. The adventure, however, was too strange to suffer him to rest satisfied without taking some steps to ascertain how far the impression of his nocturnal journal corresponded with the reality. Descartes was at that time at Stockholm, and our *savant* wrote to Chavut, the French Ambassador to the Swedish Court, with whom he was acquainted, requesting him to ask the philosopher whether the royal library had such and such peculiarities, (which he described,) and whether, in a certain compartment, a certain volume of such a size and form, was not to be found, on such and such a page of which stood ten Greek verses, a copy of which the *savant* subjoined. Descartes answered the ambassador that unless the querist had been in the habit of visiting the library for the last twenty years he could scarcely have described its arrangement more accurately; the compartment, the volume, the ten Greek verses, all tallied exactly with the description. A counterpart to this story is related by Wangelheim.

The son of a Wirtemberg jurist was studying at Gottingen, and having occasion for a book which he could not find in the library there, and which he remembered to have seen at home, wrote to request his father to send him the same. The father searched his library for the book in vain; it was not to be found, and he wrote to his son to this effect. Some time after, as he was at work in his library, and rose from his seat to replace a book which he had done with on its shelf, he beheld his son standing not far from him, and in the act, as it seemed, of reaching down a book, which stood at a considerable height, and on which the outstretched hand of the figure was already laid.—"My son!" cried the astonished father, "how came you here?" As he spoke the apparition vanished. The father, whose presence of mind was not disturbed, immediately took down the book on which the hand of the figure had seemed to be laid, and, behold, it was the very one his son had written for.—He sent it, by that day's post, to Gottingen, but soon after received a letter from his son, written on the very morning on which he had seen the apparition, and stating the exact spot where the writer was confident the book was to be found. It is unnecessary to say that it was the very spot which the apparition had already indicated.

[Dublin University Magazine.

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK.—The New York *Express* has papers from Vandiemann's Land as late as the 23d of September. The Melbourne *Herald*, of the 13th, gives the particulars of one of the most horrible shipwrecks on record, by which 406 lives were lost. The *Cata-raqui*, Capt. C. W. Finly, (emigrant ship of 800 tons,) 369 emigrants, and a crew, including two doctors, of forty-six souls. The emigrants were principally from Bedfordshire, Yorkshire, and Nottinghamshire. About one hundred and twenty of the passengers were married, with families, and in all seventy-three children. Nothing occurred worthy of notice until the 4th of August, on which day the ship went ashore in a violent gale, on a reef, situated on the west coast of King's Island at the entrance of Bass's Straits. The ship filled in a few hours, and during the night a scene of horror was exhibited without parallel. Before morning but thirty of the company were alive, the rest having been swept into eternity by the waves. Out of the whole crew only nine were saved.

COLONIZATION.—The New York *Journal of Commerce* says that the \$15,000 subscription for the purchase of territory in Liberia is completed, and would have been much sooner, had not the terms of it required the whole amount should be given by fifteen individuals. An additional subscription of \$5000 for same object, has been made in smaller sums. With this \$20,000 it is proposed to purchase the whole remaining territory from Cape Mount to Cape Palmas, and thus forever banish from 300 miles of coast the accursed slave trade.

Destructive Fire.

On Saturday morning, about daylight a fire broke out in a frame building near to the river, at the foot of Jackson street, belonging to Judge Bodley and temporarily occupied by slaves belonging to Mr. Vick, who were brought here to be shipped up the river to his plantation. They kindled a fire upon some earth that had been formerly placed there, and on which a stove had stood, and it is supposed it communicated to the floor. It then caught the two houses occupied by Messrs. Dickerson, which were stored with hay and corn; from thence it communicated to the old building formerly occupied as the Whig Office. In house of Mr. James Gwin, entirely consuming that and four adjoining frames; then crossed Washington Street, and swept the buildings from the corner of Main street to Walnut, Mr. Fraisse's brick building alone being saved. The north side of Main street, from Washington to Walnut, is a heap of ruins, as well as the north side of Walnut street, as far as the residence of Mrs. Shackney, which was consumed.

The wind was very high at the time, and one half the town would have been burned but for the recent rain—the roofs of the houses being very wet—blazing shingles and boards falling very thick over the whole of Springfield. A great deal of property has been destroyed and many families in moderate circumstances have lost nearly their all.

The losses were, Judge Bodley, 2 houses, Mr. Chinn, (of N. O.) 1; Mr. Armstrong, 1; store of Messrs. Aikin & Gwin, belonging to some one in Philadelphia; Hattwell Vick's heirs, several houses. Planter's Bank, 1; U. S. Bank, 1; S. C. Field, 1; E. D. Downs, 1; Rail Road Bank, 1; J. A. Klein, 1; H. Sadger, 1; Dr. Peck, 1; E. B. Lilly, 1; A. H. Arthur, 1; N. H. Vick, 3; and Messrs. Dickerson's and others, their stock of stores.

Messrs. Field and Klien were the only parties whose property was insured, as far as we know. [Vicksburg Whig.

FROM MATAMORAS.—By the arrival yesterday of the *schlr. Wm. C. Preston*, Capt. Cox, from the mouth of the Rio Grande, 7th., we have intelligence from Matamoras direct, a few days later than by the way of Corpus Christi. The letters and reports afford us but little information in addition to that received direct from the capital. Parades having taken such prompt measures, it was not supposed that Arista would be able to raise the standard of revolt with any chance of success. The belief at Matamoras was, that Parades had ordered a large body of troops to march for the frontier—report said 8000 for the purpose of invading Texas. It is much more probable, if ordered, they are intended to keep Arista in check. The Preston brings \$14,000 in specie. [N. O. Delta.

HIGHLY IMPORTANT.—Intense Excitement.—The Washington correspondent of the N. Y. Mirror gives the following important particulars:—

"This morning Mr. Buchanan was closed with the President for more than five minutes. It is certain that matters of the gravest character were under consideration, for Mr. B. was heard distinctly to sneeze three times in succession, and it is supposed on the highest authority that Mr. Polk took a pinch and a half of snuff. The greatest consternation prevailed at the White House, and the black cook rolled up the whites of his eyes in such a manner that the old Dutch clock went into fits and struck an hour before the time. The Secretary of War was seen by credible witnesses to go into a store & buy a box of percussion caps. These and other symptoms of war have caused stocks and stockings to rise above zero. The Secretary of the Navy, too, was seen to devour prodigious pieces of cold turkey, and an express extraordinary was despatched to a drug-store for a box of Brandreth's Pills. *Nous verrons*. There is something in the wind. More anon."

DEFACING THE MONUMENTS AT WASHINGTON.—Some miscreant, says a Washington paper, has recently disfigured Greenough's statue of Washington, which stands in the temporary octagon building of the East Capitol grounds, and of the figure of Columbus, standing on the left side of the antique chair, (on which the main statue is seated;) one-half the arm, with his hand and ball, have been broken off and carried away. The letters of the Latin inscription have also been defaced.

"A YEAR'S NOTICE."—A down-east editor wonders why his subscribers, who are so rampant for Oregon, will not walk up and pay their subscriptions after having had more than "a year's notice," to the effect that the payment would be very desirable.